

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Harris Pitlick on 10/27/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

- 1.) Claims 10-13 and 16 have been cancelled.
- 2.) Claims 14, 15 and 17-22, previously withdrawn, have been rejoined.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 3-9, 14, 15 and 17-22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While the prior art does teach various methods to vary the combustion rate of a gas generating agent (i.e. using two different gas generant, making the gas generant cone shaped with combustion restriction means, etc.), to increase the safety, none of the prior art fairly teaches or suggest the novel method presented by applicants, comprising squashing the ends of a hollow tube of a gas generating material to allow the surface area to change over time therefore changing the combustion rate over time.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES E. MCDONOUGH whose telephone number is (571)272-6398. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on (571)272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jerry A Lorengo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793

JEM 10/26/2008